

## ABSTRACT

5 A "pause and resume" function and a "channel change" function for recording and playing  
interframe compressed audiovideo data, particularly MPEG data. The invention includes  
a digital track format and a method for recording one or more sessions from one or more  
streams of interframe compressed audiovideo data which has been synchronized to a  
reference clock. The invention adds special "splice point" indicators to recorded video  
material. The splice point indicators are added either periodically (*e.g.*, by recording a  
special reference clock) or when a discontinuity occurs in recording audiovideo data  
10 streams. Splice point indicators are used to determine the existence of a point of  
discontinuity in the recorded audiovideo data. The system and method enable pausing and  
later resuming recording of an audiovideo data stream such that the audiovideo data can  
be played back with proper resynchronization at each point of discontinuity (the "pause  
and resume" function). The format and method also allow for recording an abrupt change  
15 from one audiovideo data stream to a different audiovideo data stream having a different  
clock reference, such that the two recorded sequences are spliced together as one  
continuous recorded sequence that can be played back with resynchronization of the  
program audiovideo data at each splice point (the "channel change" function). As a  
consequence of using an added special reference clock as a splice point indicator, the  
20 invention also provides random access playback. In addition, the invention permits  
recording of conventional data in standard storage formats.

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